

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 23-29, 2015.

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The purpose of the weekly fisheries update is to provide the reader with an overall summary of the status of subsistence related fisheries throughout the state of Alaska. The target audience is the Federal Subsistence Board and its Staff Committee. The report was compiled with the assistance of the Federal in-season managers and OSM staff that provided weekly updated information by the close of business on Friday of the reporting week. My goal is to have the report sent by the close of business the following Monday. Web links have been included to provide additional information. You may obtain additional information on a fishery of particular interest by contacting the in-season manager, provided contacts, follow the provided web links, or contact me.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA**Sitka and Hoonah Area – Justin Koller, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest**

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Report expected next week. Author deployed in the field.

Wrangell/Petersburg Area – Bob Larson, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

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Reporting concluded for 2015 season. Please contact author directly with questions.

The following link is the ADF&G weekly salmon commercial fishery update for Yakutat and Southeast Alaska.

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmonfishery_updates

Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska - Ben Van Alen, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

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In the Yakutat area, ADF&G personnel operated the weir on the lower Situk River through August 5 before pulling it for the season. There were 94,484 sockeye salmon and 172 large Chinook salmon counted through the weir this season. The count of sockeye salmon was above ADF&G's 30,000 to 70,000 biological escapement goal range. In contrast, the count of Chinook salmon through the Situk River weir is well below ADF&G's 450 to 1,050 goal range. ADF&G has not allowed retention of Chinook salmon in their sport and commercial set gillnet fisheries and the Forest Service has not issued permits for the subsistence take of Chinook salmon. ADF&G has also moderated fishing times in the set net fishery and closed waters near the mouth of the Situk River in an effort to protect Chinook salmon. This is the sixth season that we have taken

management actions to protect Chinook salmon returning to the Situk River. The broad overlap in timing of these two species through the Situk/Ahrnklin set gillnet fishery makes it difficult to harvest sockeye without catching Chinook salmon. The count of Chinook salmon through the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans weir on the Klukso River weir was within goal ranges this year.

In the northern inside waters of Southeast Alaska, ADF&G projects that the escapement of sockeye salmon into Chilkoot Lake will be well within their 38,000 to 86,000 goal ranges. The Chilkat River fishwheel catches have been over twice the historical average and scale pattern analysis finds that most of these fish are mainstem spawners. The sockeye count through ADF&G's weir on the Chilkat River weir is projected to be within ADF&G's 70,000 to 150,000 goal range. Catches of sockeye salmon in the joint U.S./Canadian Taku River fishwheels are near the 10-year average and the escapement is projected to be above the goal range. Douglas Island Pink and Chum hatchery staff report that they have counted 3,856 sockeye salmon adults through their picket weir on the outlet of Speel Lake which is close to the lower end of ADF&G's 4,000 fish goal range.

This week the commercial purse seine fishery fished a two-day opening on August 23-24 and a two day opening on August 27-28. Areas opened on August 23-24 included the Whitestone/Augusta, Tenakee Inlet, and Admiralty Island shoreline both north of Parker Point and south of Point Samuel. All but the Tenakee Inlet area was open for the August 27-28 opening. During the August 23-24 opening the harvest of pink salmon was about 14,500 fish/boat in the area. About 31 million pink salmon have been harvested this season and ADF&G has advised seine fishers that openings on August 31-September 1 will be the last ones targeting pink salmon for the season.

As of August 26, project personnel from the Hoonah Indian Association have counted and validated 1,217 sockeye salmon through the pair of video weirs at the outlet of Neva Lake. This run is about 85% over based on 11-years of weir counts. Angoon Community Association employees now have validated counts of 5,936 sockeye salmon through the pair of video weirs on Kook Lake. It is difficult to use historical weir counts to access the timing of this run since the migration of fish into the lake is directly affected by the commercial purse seine fishing effort in Icy Strait and Chatham Strait. The Angoon Community Association crew has also been counting sockeye salmon through the pair of remotely monitored video weirs at the outlet of Sitkoh Lake and 6,275 sockeye salmon have been counted as of August 17. At Kanalku Lake, ADF&G reported on August 25 that they had video weir counts of 1,750 sockeye salmon to the base of the falls and 1,160 (66%) into the lake.

Prince of Wales and Ketchikan District Area – Jeff Reeves, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest. (907) 826-1649 jreeves@fs.fed.us

This will be the final summary submitted for the 2015 season.

There have been 247 permits issued for the 2015 Federal subsistence salmon fishery in the Southeast Alaska and Yakutat areas. Most effort typically occurs on Prince of Wales Island and is directed at Coho Salmon.

Sockeye Salmon weirs are currently active and fishing at Hatchery Creek and Hetta. To date 4,865 Sockeye and 1,030 Coho Salmon have passed through at Hatchery Creek. Total count at the Hetta weir is 3,678 Sockeye Salmon. Salmon are continuing to move into Klawock Lake with counts at 5,687 Sockeye, 34,359 Pink, 24 Chum and 9 Chinook Salmon.

Commercial fisheries within Districts 1-4 are in full swing. Total estimated harvests in these districts to date are: 621,325 Sockeye, 151,885 Coho, 9,466,600 Pink and 1,895,800 Chum Salmon.

Southeast Alaska Web Links

Tongass National Forest News Room <http://www.fs.usda.gov/news/tongass/news-events>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Southeastern Alaska Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Southeast.pdf

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R1>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southeast Alaska
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R1.home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

Prince William Sound – Copper River – Molly McCormick, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve. (907) 822-7280 Molly_McCormick@nps.gov

The ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the lower Copper River) was pulled on July 27 with a final estimate of 1,341,545 salmon. This estimate is 192% of the projected escapement objective of 700,490 for this date, or 641,055 more salmon. It is the highest escapement counted at the Miles Lake sonar since it started in 1978. An estimate of 4,386 salmon migrated by the sonar counter on the final day of counting.

MILES LAKE SONAR ESTIMATES (TOTAL SALMON)

Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate
1978	107,011	1988	488,398	1998	866,957	2008	614,999
1979	237,173	1989	607,797	1999	848,921	2009	709,330
1980	276,538	1990	581,895	2000	587,592	2010	924,010
1981	535,263	1991	579,435	2001	833,569	2011	914,285
1982	467,306	1992	601,952	2002	819,000	2012	1,271,354
1983	545,724	1993	797,902	2003	695,233	2013	1,267,060
1984	536,806	1994	715,181	2004	669,646	2014	1,218,418
1985	436,313	1995	599,265	2005	854,268	2015	1,341,545
1986	509,275	1996	906,867	2006	959,731		
1987	483,478	1997	1,148,079	2007	926,438		

Commercial harvests in the Copper River District of Prince William Sound so far are:

- 22,767 Chinook
- 1,558,495 sockeye
- 29,450 coho
- 80,397 pink
- 15,048 chum

The Chitina Subdistrict is open and scheduled to remain open throughout the rest of the season – through September 30, 2015. The state and federal fisheries in the Chitina Subdistrict usually follow identical fishing schedules which are set by the state. Eighty-three Federal Chitina Subdistrict permits have been issued on FWS's online data base plus additional permits that have been issued in NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity.

The Glennallen Subdistrict opened for Federal subsistence users on May 15th and is expected to remain open until September 30th. 297 Federal Glennallen Subdistrict permits have been issued on FWS's online data base. Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity. The state subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict opened on June 1st.

The Batzulnetas Area fishery opened on May 15 and is expected to remain open until September 30, 2015. Four permits have been issued.

The Tanada Creek weir was operational on May 27. The crew has counted 8,329 sockeye salmon and no Chinook migrating through the weir as of August 30.

The Long Lake weir started operating on July 28. Nine hundred fifteen sockeye and no coho have migrated through the weir as of August 28.

The two project fishwheels in Baird Canyon operated by the Native Village of Eyak tagged 2,626 Chinook; 128 were recaptured at the Canyon Creek wheels. The Baird

Canyon wheels stopped operating for the season on July 10. The Canyon Creek wheels stopped operating for the season on July 26.

ADF&G's counting tower in the Gulkana River was installed on June 2. The tower stopped operations for the season on August 6, with a final count of 3,648 Chinook and 23,292 sockeye. The below photos are courtesy of ADF&G.



Photo of elevated counting tower and submerged white panel which assists counting.



View of submerged white panel from counting tower

Effective June 20, 2015, by emergency order of ADF&G, the bag and possession limit for sport-caught sockeye salmon 16 inches or longer in the Copper River drainage increased from 3 to 6.

Five Special Actions have been issued by the park this season:

- delaying the starting date of the Chitina River federal salmon fishery and setting the pre-season schedule for the fishery
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 6 – July 12, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing, and providing the tentative schedule for future fishing periods
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 13-19, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 20-26, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 27- August 2, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing

Links

ADF&G Miles Lake daily sonar estimates

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement

NVE's Chinook Escapement Monitoring project in the Copper River

<http://eyak.fishscan.com/Summary/DailySummary.aspx>

ADF&G Copper River Inseason Commercial Harvest Estimates

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.harvestsummary>

Gulkana River counting tower – ADF&G

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.LocSelectYearSpecies>

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Subsistence User's Guide

<http://www.nps.gov/wrst/historyculture/upload/Subsistence%20brochure.pdf>

Prince William Sound Federal Subsistence Regulations including Copper River.

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Prince.pdf

Gulkana River counting tower – ADF&G

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.LocSelectYearSpecies>

Link to article in the Peninsula Clarion about the smaller-than-average trend for sockeye salmon this season

<http://peninsulaclarion.com/news/2015-06-25/across-state-early-salmon-catches-underweight>

PWS and Copper River Flats – Milo Burcham, Forest Service, Cordova.

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31 August 2015

This will be the final weekly summary submitted for 2015 season.

Copper River District opened for a 24-hour fishing period starting at 7:00 am, Monday, August 31. The standard management strategy for coho salmon is one or two 24-hour periods per week depending on escapement and harvest levels. For the week ending August 29, the actual Copper River delta survey count was 17,000 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 9,298 – 19,468.

A total of 68 Federal Subsistence fishing permits have been issued for freshwaters within the Prince William Sound of Chugach National Forest to date. The most popular subsistence fisheries for Cordova residents are in full swing now. Ninety-one permits were issued last season. Harvest by this year's permit holders will not be known until reports are returned this winter. In 2014, 630 coho and 76 sockeye were harvested on Copper River Delta fresh waters in this fishery.

Cook Inlet Area – Jeff Anderson, Field Supervisor, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office (907) 260-0132 Jeffrey_Anderson@fws.gov

Reporting completed for 2015 season. Contact author with questions or requests.

Kodiak Island Area – Anne Marie LaRosa, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR
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Reporting concluded for 2015 season. Please contact author with questions or to request additional information.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kodiak Area
<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fishregs13/kodiak.pdf>

Bristol Bay and Chignik – Jon Gerken – Acting Inseason Manager Fisheries Branch Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office
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Reporting concluded for 2015 season. Please contact author with questions or to request additional information.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Bristol Bay Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Bristol.pdf

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Chignik Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/chignik.pdf

Southcentral Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases
<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.R2>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southcentral Alaska
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R2.Home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

Yukon River – Gerald Maschmann, Fish Biologist USFWS Fairbanks Office.

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Fred Bue Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov

Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

The Emmonak Field Office closed for the season. Please call the Fairbanks office at (907) 455-1849.

Fall Season Outlook and Management Actions

The fall chum salmon run in the lower Yukon has passed the $\frac{3}{4}$ point of the run. Based on the in-season run assessment at the Pilot Station sonar the projected fall chum salmon run size is falling between 700,000 to 800,000 fish. This level of abundance should be adequate to meet escapement and subsistence priorities and provide for commercial harvest.

Subsistence fishermen had been heavily restricted during the summer season and are looking for fall chum to supplement their unfulfilled subsistence salmon needs.

Subsistence salmon fishing has been relaxed in Districts 1, 2, and 3 to 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, restricted to 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear, except that fishing is closed 12-hours before, during, and 12-hours after each commercial fishing period in Districts 1 and 2. Subsistence salmon fishing in Districts 4 and 5 has been liberalized to 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, with fish wheels and gillnet gear mesh size 7.5-inch or smaller mesh and. District 6 remains on their normal regulatory subsistence fishing schedule.

Unfortunately, Porcupine River fall chum salmon stock abundance has been low in recent years when compared to other stocks in the Yukon River drainage. Fall chum salmon escapements into the Canadian Fishing Branch River, a tributary of the Porcupine River, have fallen short of meeting the escapement objective agreed upon by U.S. and Canadian representatives in 3 of the last 5 years despite other Yukon River stocks meeting or exceeding their escapement goals or objectives. In an attempt to improve fall chum escapement into the Canadian portion of the drainage, the department is closing subsistence salmon fishing in the Alaska portion of the mainstem Porcupine River for the 2015 fall season. At this time, Pilot Station sonar and genetic stock identification are not indicating an abundance of Porcupine River stocks that would warrant maintaining an open subsistence fishery on the Porcupine River.

Eleven commercial fishing periods have been opened in each of Districts 1 and 2. The preliminary fall chum salmon commercial harvest in Districts 1 and 2 is 168,208 fish.

This harvest amount is within the manager's expectations for the projected amount of available surplus. The preliminary coho salmon commercial harvest in Districts 1 and 2 is 106,130 fish. This is a much higher coho harvest than average for this time of the season and higher than expected based upon in-season assessment information. This year's coho harvest surpasses last year's record harvest of 103,352 fish and is well above the historical average coho commercial harvest. Two commercial fishing periods were opened in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C with 1,048 fall chum salmon harvested. Two commercial fishing periods were opened in Subdistricts 6-A, 6-B, and 6-C with 494 fall chum and 16 coho salmon harvested.

Fall Season Assessment Information

Assessment through August 29th shows the cumulative CPUE at the Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) is 1,212.35, slightly below the median of 1230.42. The Mt. Village Test Fishery (MVTF) has a cumulative CPUE of 1,703.51, below the median at this date of 1,734.76. The Pilot Station sonar has a cumulative estimated passage of 522,129 fall chum, below the median estimated passage of 575,456. Taking into account the harvests below the sonar, the Pilot Station sonar reconstructed passage is 703,940 fall chum, slightly above the median of 693,957. Five pulses of fall chum salmon have passed through the lower Yukon with a sixth currently passing the Pilot Station sonar. The first pulse has crossed the U.S./Canada Border. The second and third pulses are passing through upper Subdistrict 5D as detected by the Rapids video test fish wheel. The fourth and largest is near Tanana, and the fifth pulse is passing through Subdistrict 4-A at this time. The Pilot Station genetic stock identification project is showing fairly typical stock proportions across the entire run with the Canadian stock contribution somewhat higher than usual in the late portion of the season.

Coho typically enter the Yukon River during the second half of the fall chum run. Through August 29th, the cumulative CPUE at the LYTF is 449.85, above the median of 341.93. The MVTF has a cumulative CPUE of 1,368.36 is above the median of 783.49. The Pilot Station sonar has a cumulative estimated passage of 81,556 coho salmon, below the median estimated passage of 108,233. Taking into account the harvests below the sonar, the Pilot Station sonar reconstructed passage is 148,512 coho salmon, above the median of 129,705. The in-season run outlook is for an above average coho salmon run. Managers have been somewhat confounded by the proportion of coho salmon caught in some commercial openings that has been significantly greater than the estimated passage proportions by the Pilot Station sonar project.

Consultation

Weekly YRDFA teleconferences began on June 2 and ended August 25. The final YRDFA teleconference of the season occurred on August 25. A review of the fall season management was provided during a Yukon Advisory Group (YAG) meeting Monday, July 13. The ADF&G fall season manager attended a fishery meeting in person, in Fort Yukon, on August 12, to closing subsistence salmon fishing on the Porcupine River. Furthermore, the ADF&G manager arranged and participated via teleconference in a discussion as an agenda item during a Tribal meeting in Fort Yukon on August 17 which gained local support for this action.

Kuskokwim River – Neil Lalonde, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Neil_Lalonde@fws.gov or
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Kuskokwim River

This will be the final weekly summary submitted for the 2015 season.

Summary: Taken from ADF&G Update #11

Coho salmon runs were managed conservatively throughout the Kuskokwim Management Area. A conservative approach was warranted due to inseason assessment information that indicated late run timing, below average run strength, and uncertainty in achieving tributary escapement goals. Commercial harvest within the Kuskokwim River was delayed and the number of openers was reduced compared to prior years in order to provide additional opportunity for subsistence harvest of coho salmon.

Active management of the Kuskokwim River coho salmon runs has ended. There are no additional commercial harvest opportunities planned for the Kuskokwim Management Area. The Bethel Test Fishery ended operations on August 24. Throughout the season, the Bethel Test Fishery indicated that the coho salmon run size would be adequate to meet escapement goals, allow for an increased subsistence harvest, and modest commercial harvest.

Coho salmon escapement monitoring will continue throughout the month of September at five Kuskokwim River locations and the Goodnews River in Kuskokwim Bay. Currently, escapement of coho salmon is below average at all locations, except Tatlawiksuk River where escapement is above average. Inseason projections of end of season escapement based on late run timing indicate that the escapement goal will likely be achieved at the Kogruluk River and may not be achieved at the Kwethluk River.

Bethel Test Fish: (last data was 8/23)

- Through the evening tide on August 23rd the cumulative coho index was 2,688, at this time last year the cumulative index was 4,569.

Kwethluk River Weir: Through August 29th

- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 7,806, at this time last year the cumulative index was 29,102.

Tuluksak River Weir: Through August 29th (2nd highest since 2009)

- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 4,855, at this time last year the cumulative index was 10,583.

George River Weir: Through August 29th

- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 14,275, at this time last year the cumulative index was 24,603.

Tatlawiksuk River Weir: Through August 29th (2nd highest since 2009)

- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 13,172, at this time last year the cumulative index was 17,908.

Kogrugluk River Weir: Through August 29th

- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 3,036, at this time last year the cumulative index was 21,672.

Management Actions: Taken from ADF&G Update #11

There are no additional commercial harvest opportunities planned for the Kuskokwim Management Area.

There have been a total of three commercial openers in District W1, downriver from Bethel. The first commercial opener was August 10. Total harvest from those three periods was 5 Chinook, 129 sockeye, 514 chum, and 64,994 coho salmon. Total harvest of all species is below average.

There have been a total of 17 commercial openers in District W4. The first commercial opener was July 3. Total harvest is 7,533 Chinook, 16,139 chum, 30,272 sockeye, and 75,264 coho salmon. Harvest is below average for Chinook salmon, chum salmon, and sockeye salmon. Coho salmon harvest is above average.

There have been a total of 13 commercial openers in District W5. The first commercial opener was July 3. Total harvest is 705 Chinook, 4,510 chum, 25,861 sockeye, and 7,030 coho salmon. Harvest is below average for all species.

Yukon-Kuskokwim-Interior Alaska Web Links***Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases:***

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Yukon–Northern Area

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Yukon.pdf

NEW = Kuskokwim River Updates Hosted on OSM Website

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/kuskokwim.cfm>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kuskokwim Area

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kusko.pdf

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R3>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Interior Alaska:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R3.home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

Northwest Alaska – Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.

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Norton Sound District

The silver run has picked up this week and the commercial harvest has surpassed 100,000 silvers for the second year in a row and the seventh time in history. The department forecast of 60,000 to 90,000 silvers in the commercial fishery has been shattered and this year's harvest looks to be on track to break into the top 3 greatest harvests that occurred from 2006-2008. The preliminary Norton Sound salmon catches this season are 1,100 kings, 150,000 chums, 4,000 sockeyes, 65,000 pinks and 104,000 silvers by 125 permit holders. The chum catch finished 11th best in the 55-year history of the commercial fishery and was the best harvest since 1983.

Unalakleet (Subdistrict 6) and Shaktoolik (Subdistrict 5)

Commercial Fishing: Two 48-hour fishing periods a week unless changed at the request of the buyer. The schedule is from Sunday at 6 p.m. until Tuesday at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 6 p.m. until Friday 6 at p.m.

The commercial catch this season for the **Unalakleet Subdistrict** is 300 kings, 500 sockeyes, 33,000 pinks, 38,000 chums and 70,000 silvers. The silver catch is sixth highest in history. The 72-hour period that ended Saturday night on August 15 had one of the greatest single fishing period harvests with a catch of 18,000 silvers.

North River Tower – Camp J.B. - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has escapement goals of 1,200-2,600 kings; 25,000 pinks; 550-1,100 silvers (aerial survey); and no goal yet established for chums. Cumulative counts through August 14 were 1,900 kings, 22,000 chums, 455,000 pinks and 3,600 silvers. The silver count through mid-August is the second highest in 5 years. The average historical third quarter point for silver passage at the tower is August 23.

Unalakleet River Floating Weir – A cooperative project of Fish & Game, Native Village of Unalakleet, United States BLM and NSEDC with major funding provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management. The project is completed for the season. Cumulative counts through August 15 were 2,775 kings, 97,000 chums, 1.6 million pinks, 900 sockeyes and 41,000 silvers. The project started in 2010 and the silver count was the best in history.

The commercial catch this season in the **Shaktoolik Subdistrict** is 34 kings, 55 sockeyes, 14,000 pinks, 26,000 chums and 18,000 silvers. The silver catch through mid-August is the best since 2008 and is eighth highest in history.

Shaktoolik Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has no escapement goals yet established. Cumulative counts through August 13 were 600 kings, 27,000 chums, 400,000 pinks and 11,500 silvers.

Norton Bay (Subdistrict 4), Elim (Subdistrict 3), and Golovin (Subdistrict 2)

The Golovin, Elim, and Norton Bay subdistricts reopened for two 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods from 6:00 p.m. Saturday, August, 15 to 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 17 and from 6:00 Wednesday, August 19 to 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 21.

The commercial catch this season in the **Norton Bay Subdistrict** is 225 kings, 250 sockeyes, 12,000 pinks, 24,000 chums and 6,600 silvers. The silver catch through mid-August is a record.

Inglutalik River Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC and ADF&G. No escapement goals have been established. Cumulative counts through August 10 were 1,400 kings, 68,000 chums, 825,000 pinks and 8,000 silvers. Silvers counts are above average.

The commercial catch this season in the **Elim Subdistrict** is 500 kings, 2,200 sockeyes, 4,500 pinks, 39,000 chums and 6,600 silvers. The silver catch is the sixth highest in history.

Kwiniuk River Tower – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has escapement goals of 300-550 kings; 11,500 – 23,000 chums; 8,400 pinks; and 650-1,300 silvers (aerial survey goal). Cumulative counts through August 15 were 320 kings, 38,000 chums, 102,000 pinks, 27 sockeyes and 2,200 silvers. The silver count is second highest in the last 5 years. The average historical midpoint for silver passage at the tower is August 15.

The commercial catch this season in the **Golovin subdistrict** is 60 kings, 1,000 sockeyes, 1,300 pinks, 17,000 chums and 2,500 silvers. The silver catch is sixth highest in history.

Fish River Tower - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established. Cumulative counts through August 15 were 2,300 kings, 145,000 chums, 215,000 pinks and 8,000 silvers. This is the second year of the Fish River project. The previous tower project at Niukluk River had an average historical midpoint of August 21 for silver passage at the tower and escapement goal range was 2,400 to 7,200 fish. Tagging studies have shown that one-third of the silvers go up Niukluk River and the Niukluk River escapement goal range would have been met this year.

Nome (Subdistrict 1)

Commercial Fishing: The commercial catch this season is 3 kings, 90 sockeyes, 550 pinks, 5,000 chums and 15 silvers. No more commercial fishing periods are expected. The chum catch was the best since 1987.

Subsistence Fishing: Beach seining is no longer allowed. Subsistence set gillnet fishing in the marine waters of the subdistrict is open seven days a week. There are no catch limits when fishing in marine waters. The fresh water subsistence area set gillnet schedule is from 6:00 p.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday and from 6:00 p.m. Thursday until 6:00 p.m. Saturday. Catch limits vary by river, and fishermen should check the backs of their permits. The chum salmon limit has been waived in the Nome and Snake rivers. A record of 515 Nome subdistrict subsistence permits have been issued so far season. The previous record was 494 permits issued in 2010.

Solomon River Weir – A Fish & Game project, has no escapement goals yet established. Cumulative counts through August 15 were 3 kings, 1,030 chums, 18,000 pinks and 30 silvers.

Nome River Weir – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has an escapement goal of 2,900 – 4,300 chum salmon and 3,200 pink salmon. Cumulative counts through August 15 were 20 kings, 5,800 chums, 75,000 pinks, 60 sockeyes and 70 silvers. The silver count has been lagging and is the lowest since 2009. The average historical midpoint for silver passage at the weir is August 29.

Snake River Weir – A cooperative project between Fish & Game and NSEDC has an escapement goal of 1,600 – 2,500 chum salmon. Cumulative counts through August 15 were 3 kings, 4,200 chums, 16,000 pinks and 75 silvers. The silver count ranks third highest since 2009. The average historical midpoint for silver passage at the weir is August 28.

Port Clarence District

Gillnetting and beach seining are allowed 7 days per week. All subsistence sockeye salmon catch limits have been waived on the Pilgrim River. Fishermen need to check the back of their permit for limits on other salmon. Pilgrim River has required subsistence permits since 1964 and a record 368 permits have been issued so far this season. The

previous record was 265 permits issued in 2013. Salmon lake is within the Port Clarence District and the ADF&G opened to subsistence fishing that half of Salmon Lake that drains into the Pilgrim River.

Pilgrim River Weir –A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has an escapement goal of 4,000 – 8,000 sockeyes based on aerial survey at Salmon Lake & Grand Central tributary to Salmon Lake. Cumulative counts through August 15 were 97 kings, 37,000 chums, 2,700 pinks, 35,000 sockeyes and 125 silvers. The sockeye escapement was the best since 2007.

Kotzebue District

Daily commercial salmon fishing openings between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. were announced beginning Sunday, August 16 through Friday, August 21. Fishermen were limited by the buyer to a daily catch limit of 1,500 pounds.

The 2015 commercial harvest through mid-August is 255,000 chum salmon, and is half of last year's record harvest, but will likely finish third highest in the last 20 years. On Tuesday, August 11, 72 permit holders fished which was the most permit holders to fish in one fishing period since 1994.

Kobuk River Test Fish - Fish & Game project. The chum catch through mid-August is only half of last year's catch but ranks sixth highest in the 23-year history of the project.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for the Kotzebue Area
<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fishregs11/norton.pdf>